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CLASSIFICATION

DATE: 19. Nov. 1953

TO : Chief, EE
Attn: []
FROM : Chief of Base, Vienna
SUBJECT: GENERAL— Operational/GRSPINALE

SPECIFIC— GRSPINAL Progress Report 1 September - 15 November 1953

Headquarters Action Required:

1. None; for information and files.

Synopsis of Developments:

2. a. Discussion of publication of the Gruber Memoirs.
b. Miscellaneous comments on status of GRSPINAL 2.

Developments:

3. a. The principal development affecting GRSPINAL 2 since the previous progress report was the involvement of the newspaper in the affair of the Gruber Memoirs. Publication of advance excerpts from Gruber's book resulted in Gruber's resignation as Foreign Secretary and also caused a considerable upheaval within the OeVP, as well as giving the Socialists useful campaign material. In VIM/6096, attachment to EAVA-5014, a discussion of possible neutralist tendencies in the Raab administration is discussed, at which time [] expressed concern that Raab might go too far in conciliating the Soviets. In subsequent discussions [] repeated his comments on the possibility that Raab was gradually adopting a neutralist line. []'s expressed intention was to view with editorial alarm those developments which he considered to be indicative of such a trend to keep the basic question of Austrian neutralism before his readers; on the other hand, he repeatedly stated that he wished to avoid a head-on collision with Raab and the OeVP hierarchy.

b. In spite of good intentions, however, publication by GRSPINAL 2 of extracts from Gruber's book resulted in the replacement of Gruber and also incurred Raab's resentment against []. The Figl-Fischerei aspects of the incident have been covered in information reports from this station, including EAV-1077, 1088 and 1090. In addition VIM/6714 reports several items of operational significance. Raab would undoubtedly be pleased to get some form of control over GRSPINAL 2, or as a lesser goal, to force [] out of GRSPINAL 2. Available information indicates that Raab has slight prospects of doing either. [] does not expect Raab to expend much effort in settling scores with him; on the other hand,

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VIM 6714
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c. w. file
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he plans to be very circumspect in the next few months to permit the Memoirs incident to be forgotten, if not forgiven.

c. [] explanation of his involvement in this affair, see EAV-1090, is somewhat ingenuous, to say the least. On the other hand, in view of [] present position and also previous discussions of his political ambitions, it is difficult to find a reasonable basis for crediting [] with a deep-laid political plot not only to get Gruber fired from the cabinet and to attract considerable attention, but also to get some profit to himself from the matter. We are inclined to attribute [] participation to a certain humbuggishness which he occasionally displays, as well as to his occasional failure to think matters through to their probable conclusion. In the long run it is unlikely that the Gruber Memoirs incident will affect the development of either [] or GRSPINAL 2.

d. The important point for KUBARK which this matter highlights is that [] did not see fit to discuss the matter with the case officer before committing himself to publication. His discussion with GRUBER in March amounted to no more than an expression of interest on his part, but between the time he received the Memoirs from the Ullstein Company and the time he decided to publish the excerpts he should have contacted the case officer, according to our view of our relationship with him. Whether or not one accepts fully his statement that he did not consider the articles as sensational as they proved to be, the fact remains that their publication was a major editorial step; at no time during the affair, however, did he ever express the thought that perhaps he should have consulted the case officer before starting the venture. In the near future, when the excitement has further abated, the case officer will re-open the matter with him, pointing out that although the case officer has no intention of becoming a censor, he feels that perhaps he and [] view their relationship in entirely different ways and that he feels that they should reach a common ground on this subject. The Memoirs incident actually may prove to be a useful device for us to improve our control over the content of GRSPINAL 2.

4. With the exception of the Gruber matter, GRSPINAL 2 has produced no problems and appears to be running smoothly. Drs. ~~Otto SCHULMEISTER~~ and ~~Milan DUBROVIC~~ have proven themselves to be satisfactory editors, and the Sanierung, which took place on 1 July 1953, has improved the financial position of the newspaper. In January 1953 [] plans to raise the price of GRSPINAL 2 to S. 1.00 and at the same time increase the number of pages. ★

Attachments:

5. Under separate cover are forwarded the business reports of GRSPINAL 2 for the third quarter of calendar year 1953. Attached are VIMs/6562 and 6714. Prior contact reports have already been forwarded to Washington.

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Attachments:

- a. Business reports of DISPINAL 2 (SC)
- b. VIM/6562 (HW)
- c. VIM/6711 (HW)

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Distribution:

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